

Approved 11.26.13

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday October 22, 2013
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 7 pm. With a quorum present, Chairman Whittaker called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Selectmen Present: Ken Whittaker, Chair; Patrick Wilson, Vice Chair; Jack Wilhelm, Secretary
Also Present: Mark Andrews, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Public Information

Agenda
Announcements
Appointment Certificates
Gift letter- Cal Perkins
Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions
Finance Report - BMAG
Minutes 8.20.13 & 9.25.13

Abbreviations used

BOS Board of Selectmen
TA Town Administrator
STM Special Town Meeting

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Whittaker took the agenda out of order.

Fire Department Promotion & Introduction of (new) Full Time Firefighter (New Business)

Fire Chief Blanchard was present to announce the promotion of Gary Blaney and Robert Wallace to Lieutenants through June 30, 2014 and the hiring of Jacob Kreyling as the full time firefighter as of mid October. The Firefighters were ceremonially pinned by their wives.

PUBLIC INPUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wilson announced volunteers are needed for the following Boards/ Committees adding interested applicants should send a letter of interest to the Town Administrator:

1. Cemetery Commission – one member to complete the 2013/2014 term
2. Historic District Commission - two members
3. Zoning Board of Appeals – one member/ one alternate
4. Hamilton Wenham Community Access Committee – two members: Chairman Whittaker noted that two applications were received from previous serving members of this committee; this will be addressed at the next BOS meeting.
5. Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee – This is a Wenham Appointment – Chairman Whittaker noted a joint meeting with the BOS/ School Committee regarding the appointment would be scheduled.

Mr. Wilson also announced the following meetings/seminar:

- Massachusetts State Open Meeting Law Training Session by Attorney General staff October 24, 2013 at North Shore Community College Danvers campus
- Hamilton Wenham Downtown Visioning Workshop with MAPC November 14, 2013
- Warrant Hearing October 29, 2013 at 7 pm Wenham Town Hall
- The STM is November 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Bessie Buker School
- October 25, 2013 is the last day for (new) voter registration to participate in the STM.

- The Essex Regional Retirement Advisory Committee has requested the use of the Selectman Meeting Room in Town Hall for their meeting on October 23, 2013. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the use of the room. The BOS requested the material from the meeting

Mr. Andrews announced that the Town's bond rating had been increased by Standard & Poor's, an international ratings agency, from a Double A plus to a Triple A. This is the highest level of bond rating; only 28 communities in Massachusetts have been awarded this level of rating. A Triple A rating will allow the town to negotiate a better/lower (borrowing) interest rate on municipal loans. This rating is a direct result of the overall financial stability of the Town of Wenham. Further the report cited

Mr. Whittaker commented that this reflects greatly on the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and the Finance Department for successful financial management.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Recognition- Chairman Whittaker announced that this would be deferred to a future meeting.

Vote to rescind Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Questions

Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Questions:

1. Buker School Heating System
2. Winthrop School Heating System and Windows
3. Winthrop School Heating Distribution System
4. Buker School Fire Suppression System

Mr. Andrews summarized there are four Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Questions to be voted by the STM on November 5, 2013 to be put on the December 12, 2013 special ballot. The Town Clerk has recommended the BOS rescind their vote of October 15, 2013 to place the questions on the ballot, until November 5, 2013. The reason for her recommendation is that there is a timeline for the Town Clerk to follow once the BOS vote the questions to be put on the ballot. Her concern is that the Town would pay to have the ballots printed, before an affirmative vote of town meeting.

Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to rescind Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Question on the Special Election Ballot on December 12, 2013 for the Buker School Heating System. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to rescind Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Question on the Special Election Ballot on December 12, 2013 for the Winthrop School Heating System and Windows. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to rescind Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Question on the Special Election Ballot on December 12, 2013 for the Winthrop School Heating Distribution System. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to rescind Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Ballot Question on the Special Election Ballot on December 12, 2013 for the Buker School Fire Suppression System. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Wilhelm inquired if additional information was available from Town Counsel, the School Committee, and/or the Fire Chief, if the sprinkler system in the Bessie Buker School was required. An analysis of the statute is pending from Counsel.

Request to Provide a Gift to The Town of Wenham – Chairman Whittaker read a letter from the former Fire Chief Calvin Perkins wanting to donate equipment to the Wenham Fire Department, including a radio service monitor and hardware to set up, test, monitor, and repair mobile, portable, and base stations. The estimated value is \$3,700.00.

Fire Chief Bob Blanchard and Captain Jeff Baxter were both present to express their gratitude. It was noted that the department currently sub contracts for this service and the donation of this equipment will provide a cost savings to the department.

VOTE: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to accept the gift on behalf of the Town of Wenham, under all applicable laws and bylaws. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- Mr. Andrews reviewed the Finance Report as prepared by Baystate Municipal Accounting Group. This report is part of the minutes
- Mr. Andrews will ask the Chief Assessor to make a presentation on the trending analysis at the next BOS meeting.
- Mr. Andrews was directed to put the Finance Director's memorandums on the Town's web site.
- Mr. Andrews reported the he and Police Chief Perkins went to a meeting of the Northeastern Mass Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC). NEMLEC is a consortium of local municipal police and sheriff agencies that are committed to providing support, services, and equipment to the police chiefs of member Communities.
- The Warrant Articles will be posted (tomorrow) October 23, 2013.
- The Permitting Coordinator has taken over the redevelopment of the Town's web site. The goal is to have the site on line by November 12, 2013. This will be presented to the BOS before it is finalized.
- Government Study Update – Chairman Whittaker stated that a draft job description for the Town Administrator position has been distributed by the Government Study Committee. Discussion regarding this report was deferred to the next BOS meeting.
- The Finance Committee is meeting on October 24, 2013.
- The League of Women Voters is holding a seminar, at the Library, on Chapter 61a and 61b regarding property tax incentives for property owners. Mr. Whittaker is attending.
- Mr. Wilson reported that the Community Preservation Committee voted not to recommend the use of CPA funds to the STM on the application for the renovation of the Veteran's pool at Patton Park, in Hamilton. He went on to recommend that Wenham and Hamilton implement the Gail Associates Master Plan. Mr. Whittaker added that the CPC vote is not conclusive, and does not preclude Wenham working with Hamilton regarding the pool.

MINUTES

*Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to approve the release of the **executive session minutes of September 3, 2013**. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to approve the **open meeting minutes of September 3, 2013**. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to approve the **open meeting minutes of August 20, 2013**. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to approve and hold, the **executive session minutes of August 20, 2013**. The motion carried unanimously.*

Vote: Mr. Wilhelm moved to adjourn at 7:56 pm and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
10.25.13